

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1322

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 5631

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XF US

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S SEPT 16 CINCINNATI SPEECH --
MIDDLE EAST

REF: STATE 222166

1. DCM CALLED ON MINFON AFFAIRS DEPSEC GEN
ZAKARIA SEPTEMBER 22 TO DELIVER TEXT OF SECRETARY'S
SEPTEMBER 16 CINCINNATI SPEECH. HE CALLED ZAKARIA'S
ATTENTION TO PORTION OF TEXT DEALING WITH MIDDLE
EAST AND ESPECIALLY TO PASSAGE ON FUTURE DIRECTION
OF U.S.- MIDDLE EAST POLICY. DCM EXPLAINED THAT HE
WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO CALL GOM'S ATTENTION TO
SECRETARY'S STATEMENT, EMPHASIZING THAT EGYPTIAN-
ISRAELI AGREEMENT WAS A STEP IN A CONTINUING PROCESS.
IT WAS THE SECRETARY'S VIEW THAT THE EGYPTIAN-
ISRAELI AGREEMENT HAD CREATED NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR
THE FUTURE AND THAT THESE OPPORTUNITIES MUST BE
SEIZED. THE U.S. WOULD SERIOUSLY ENCOURAGE
NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL, AND WAS
PREPARED TO CONSULT OTHERS, INCLUDING THE SOVIET
UNION, ABOUT A RECONVENED GENEVA CONFERENCE.
U.S. WAS AWARE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PERMANENT
PEACE UNLESS IT INCLUDED ARRANGEMENTS THAT TOOK
INTO ACCOUNT LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE
PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

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2. ZAKARIA, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY FONMIN MIDDLE EAST SPECIALIST MOHAMMED HASHIM BIN TAIB, THANKED DCM FOR TEXT AND SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD STUDY IT CAREFULLY. HE SAID GOM POLICY WAS TO ENCOURAGE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF M-E PROBLEMS AND THAT HE BELIEVED EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT WAS A STEP TOWARD THAT. HE ASKED HOW SERIOUSLY THE U.S. TOOK SYRIAN OBJECTIONS TO THE AGREEMENT. DCM REPLIED HE BELIEVED THAT WE TOOK THEM QUITE SERIOUSLY; THIS WAS ONE REASON WHY WE WERE CALLING THE ATTENTION OF INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS TO OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS AGREEMENT WAS ONLY ONE STEP TOWARD A LARGER SETTLEMENT. ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT STATEMENTS IN THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH WAS THAT THE U.S. WOULD SERIOUSLY ENCOURAGE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL.

3. ZAKARIA THEN ASKED WHAT WAS BEHIND SADAT'S STRONG STATEMENTS ATTACKING THE RUSSIANS. DCM SAID HE COULD ONLY SURMISE THAT SADAT BELIEVED RUSSIANS HAD, AT LEAST IN PART, HELPED STIMULATE ARAB AND PARTICULARLY SYRIAN OBJECTIONS TO THE AGREEMENT. ZAKARIA ALSO WANTED TO KNOW PROSPECTS FOR CONGRESSIONAL PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION RE DISPATCH OF AMERICAN TECHNICIANS TO SINAI. DCM SAID HE UNDERSTOOD CHANCES OF PASSAGE WERE GOOD.

4. IN CLOSING DISCUSSION, ZAKARIA COMMENTED THAT GOM INTERESTED IN EXPANDING ITS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONSHIPS WITH ARAB WORLD BUT WAS HOLDING BACK FOR FINANCIAL REASONS. THERE ARE CURRENTLY MALAYSIAN AMBASSADORS IN JIDDA, KUWAIT AND CAIRO; CHARGES IN MOROCCO AND IRAQ; AND A TRADE OFFICE IN BEIRUT. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, HE CONFIRMED THAT GOM IS CONSIDERING ESTABLISHING OFFICE IN LIBYA AS NEXT STEP, BUT SAID THEY COULD NOT AFFORD IT AT THE MOMENT.
UNDERHILL

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